

**EXAMINER AMENDMENT
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/673,900

Examiner

Michael C. Zarroli

Applicant(s)

OBIKANE ET AL.

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 9/29/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/29/03, 4/8/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other definition.

**MICHAEL C. ZARROLI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**



EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Elizabeth Richter on 10/26/04.

The application has been amended as follows: Revise claims 1 and 6 as follows.

1. A connector which is mountable in/on a surface of a substrate and is connectable to a mating connector in a first direction perpendicular to the surface of the substrate, wherein the connector comprises an insulator, a plurality of contacts and a plurality of separate fixity members adjacent to the contacts; the insulator is formed with a plurality of first holding portions for holding the respective contacts and a plurality of second holding portions for holding the respective fixity members; the first and the second holding portions are arranged in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction; each of the contacts has a first held portion held by the corresponding one of the

first holding portions, a first fixing portion for fixing the contact on the surface of the substrate, and a contact portion for being brought-into contact with contacts of the mating connector; and the fixity members serve to fix the insulator to the substrate in cooperation with the first fixing portions of the contacts, the connector being characterized in that:

each of the fixity members is made of the same material as the contacts and is comprised of a second held portion and a second fixing portion;

the second held portion has the same shape as the first held portion and is held by the corresponding one of the second holding portions of the insulator; and

the second fixing portion has the same shape as the first fixing portion and is for fixing the fixity member on the surface of the substrate, **the fixity members do not make electrical contact.**

6. The connector according to claim 1, comprising at least two sets of the contacts and the fixity members, wherein the insulator is formed with two sets of the first and the second holding portions, the sets of the first and the second holding portions are arranged symmetrically in a third

direction perpendicular to the first and the second directions, and each set of the first and the second holding portions holds the corresponding set of the contacts and the fixity members **[in the manner defined in one of claims 1 to 4]**.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The combination of claim 1 specifically the fixity members that do not make electrical contact and are shaped like part of the contacts. A definition of the term , "fixity" is attached.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. All the patents listed on the accompanying PTO-892 teach fixity members but they make electrical contact because they are monolithic with contacts. Except for McHugh but his fixity member makes electrical contact.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T.C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael C. Zarroli
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

MCZ
MCZ

fix·i·ty

fix·i·ty (fiksēd) *noun*

plural fix·i·ties

1. The quality or condition of being fixed.
2. Something fixed or immovable.

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.